

# Singly-even self-dual codes with minimal shadow

Stefka Bouyuklieva\* and Wolfgang Willems

Faculty of Mathematics, University of Magdeburg  
39016 Magdeburg, Germany

## Abstract

In this note we investigate extremal singly-even self-dual codes with minimal shadow. For particular parameters we prove non-existence of such codes. By a result of Rains [11], the length of extremal singly-even self-dual codes is bounded. We give explicit bounds in case the shadow is minimal.

**Index Terms:** *self-dual codes, singly-even codes, minimal shadow, bounds*

## 1 Introduction

Let  $C$  be a singly-even self-dual  $[n, \frac{n}{2}, d]$  code and let  $C_0$  be its doubly-even subcode. There are three cosets  $C_1, C_2, C_3$  of  $C_0$  such that  $C_0^\perp = C_0 \cup C_1 \cup C_2 \cup C_3$ , where  $C = C_0 \cup C_2$ . The set  $S = C_1 \cup C_3 = C_0^\perp \setminus C$  is called the shadow of  $C$ . Shadows for self-dual codes were introduced by Conway and Sloane [5] in order to derive new upper bounds for the minimum weight of singly-even self-dual codes and to provide restrictions on their weight enumerators.

According to [10] the minimum weight  $d$  of a self-dual code of length  $n$  is bounded by  $4\lfloor n/24 \rfloor + 4$  for  $n \not\equiv 22 \pmod{24}$  and by  $4\lfloor n/24 \rfloor + 6$  if  $n \equiv 22 \pmod{24}$ . We call a self-dual code meeting this bound extremal. Note that for some lengths, for instance length 34, no extremal self-dual codes exist.

Some properties of the weight enumerator of  $S$  are given in the following theorem.

**Theorem 1** [5] *Let  $S(y) = \sum_{r=0}^n B_r y^r$  be the weight enumerator of  $S$ . Then*

- $B_r = B_{n-r}$  for all  $r$ ,
- $B_r = 0$  unless  $r \equiv n/2 \pmod{4}$ ,
- $B_0 = 0$ ,

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\*Supported by the Humboldt Foundation. On leave from Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, Veliko Tarnovo University, 5000 Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria

- $B_r \leq 1$  for  $r < d/2$ ,
- $B_{d/2} \leq 2n/d$ ,
- at most one  $B_r$  is nonzero for  $r < (d+4)/2$ .

Elkies studied in [6] the minimum weight  $s$  (respectively the minimum norm) of the shadow of self-dual codes (respectively of unimodular lattices), especially in the cases where it attains a high value. Bachoc and Gaborit proposed to study the parameters  $d$  and  $s$  simultaneously [1]. They proved that  $2d + s \leq \frac{n}{2} + 4$ , except in the case  $n \equiv 22 \pmod{24}$  where  $2d + s \leq \frac{n}{2} + 8$ . They called the codes attaining this bound *s-extremal*. In this note we study singly-even self-dual codes for which the minimum weight of the shadow has smallest possible value.

**Definition 1** *We say that a self-dual code  $C$  of length  $24m + 8l + 2r$  with  $r = 1, 2, 3$  and  $l = 0, 1, 2$  is a code with minimal shadow if  $\text{wt}(S) = r$ . For  $r = 0$ ,  $C$  is called of minimal shadow if  $\text{wt}(S) = 4$ .*

Self-dual codes with minimal shadow are subject of two previous articles. The paper [3] is devoted to connections between self-dual codes of length  $24m + 8l + 2$  with  $\text{wt}(S) = 1$ , combinatorial designs and secret sharing schemes. The structure of these codes are used to characterize access groups in a secret sharing scheme based on codes. There are two types of schemes which are proposed - with one-part secret and with two-part secret. Moreover, some of the considered codes support 1- and 2-designs. The performance of the extremal self-dual codes of length  $24m + 8l$  where  $l = 1, 2$  have been studied in [2]. In particular, different types of codes with the same parameters are compared with regard to the decoding error probability. It turned out that for lengths  $24m + 8$  singly-even codes with minimal shadow perform better than doubly-even codes. Thus from the point of view of data correction one is interested in singly-even codes with minimal shadow.

This article is organized as follows. In Section 2 we prove that extremal self-dual codes with minimal shadow of length  $24m + 2t$  for  $t = 1, 2, 3, 5, 11$  do not exist. Moreover, for  $t = 4, 6, 7$  and  $9$ , we obtain upper bounds for the length. We also prove that if extremal doubly-even self-dual codes of length  $n = 24m + 8$  or  $24m + 16$  do not exist then extremal singly-even self-dual codes with minimal shadow do not exist for the same length. The only case for which we do not have a bound for the length is  $n = 24m + 20$ .

All computations have been carried out with Maple.

## 2 Extremal self-dual codes with minimal shadow

Let  $C$  be a singly-even self-dual code of length  $n = 24m + 8l + 2r$  where  $l = 0, 1, 2$  and  $r = 0, 1, 2, 3$ . The weight enumerator of  $C$  and its shadow are given by [5]:

$$W(y) = \sum_{j=0}^{12m+4l+r} a_j y^{2j} = \sum_{i=0}^{3m+l} c_i (1+y^2)^{12m+4l+r-4i} (y^2(1-y^2)^2)^i$$

$$S(y) = \sum_{j=0}^{6m+2l} b_j y^{4j+r} = \sum_{i=0}^{3m+l} (-1)^i c_i 2^{12m+4l+r-6i} y^{12m+4l+r-4i} (1-y^4)^{2i}$$

Using these expressions we can write  $c_i$  as a linear combination of the  $a_j$  and as a linear combination of the  $b_j$  in the following way [10]:

$$c_i = \sum_{j=0}^i \alpha_{ij} a_j = \sum_{j=0}^{3m+l-i} \beta_{ij} b_j. \quad (1)$$

Suppose  $C$  is an extremal singly-even self-dual code with minimal shadow, hence  $d = 4m + 4$  and  $\text{wt}(S) = r$  if  $r = 1, 2, 3$  and  $\text{wt}(S) = 4$  if  $r = 0$ . Obviously in this case  $a_0 = 1$ ,  $a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_{2m+1} = 0$ . According to Theorem 1, we have  $b_0 = 1$  if  $r > 0$  and  $m \geq 1$ , and  $b_0 = 0, b_1 = 1$  if  $r = 0$  and  $m \geq 2$ .

Moreover, if  $r > 0$  and  $m \geq 1$  then  $b_1 = b_2 = \dots = b_{m-1} = 0$ . Otherwise  $S$  would contain a vector  $v$  of weight less than or equal to  $4m - 4 + r$ , and if  $u \in S$  is a vector of weight  $r$  then  $u + v \in C$  with  $\text{wt}(u + v) \leq 4m + 2r - 4 \leq 4m + 2$ , a contradiction to the minimum distance of  $C$ . Similarly, if  $r = 0$  and  $m \geq 2$  then  $b_2 = \dots = b_{m-1} = 0$ .

**Remark 1** For extremal self-dual codes of length  $24m + 8l + 2$  we furthermore have  $b_m = 0$ . Otherwise  $S$  would contain a vector  $v$  of weight  $4m + 1$ , and if  $u \in S$  is the vector of weight 1 which exists since  $\text{wt}(S) = 1$ , then  $u + v \in C$  with  $\text{wt}(u + v) \leq 4m + 2$  contradicting the minimum distance of  $C$ .

If  $m \geq 2$  we have by (1)

$$c_{2m+1} = \alpha_{2m+1,0} = \beta_{2m+1,\epsilon} + \sum_{j=m}^{m+l-1} \beta_{2m+1,j} b_j, \quad (2)$$

where  $\epsilon = 1$  for  $r = 0$  and  $\epsilon = 0$  otherwise, since  $3m + l - 2m - 1 = m + l - 1$ . To evaluate this equation, which turns out to be crucial in the following, we need to consider the coefficients  $\alpha_{i0}$  in details. In order to do this we denote by  $\alpha_i(n)$  the coefficient  $\alpha_{i0}$  if  $n$  is the length of the code. According to [10] we have

$$\alpha_i(n) = \alpha_{i0} = -\frac{n}{2i} [\text{coeff. of } y^{i-1} \text{ in } (1+y)^{-n/2-1+4i} (1-y)^{-2i}]. \quad (3)$$

Let  $t = 4l + r$  and  $n = 24m + 8l + 2r = 24m + 2t$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_{2m+1}(n) &= -\frac{12m+t}{2m+1} [\text{coeff. of } y^{2m} \text{ in } (1+y)^{-12m-t-1+8m+4}(1-y)^{-4m-2}] \\ &= -\frac{12m+t}{2m+1} [\text{coeff. of } y^{2m} \text{ in } (1+y)^{-4m-t+3}(1-y)^{-4m-2}]\end{aligned}$$

For  $t > 5$  we obtain

$$\alpha_{2m+1}(n) = -\frac{12m+t}{2m+1} [\text{coeff. of } y^{2m} \text{ in } (1-y^2)^{-4m-t+3}(1-y)^{t-5}],$$

and if  $t \leq 5$  then

$$\alpha_{2m+1}(n) = -\frac{12m+t}{2m+1} [\text{coeff. of } y^{2m} \text{ in } (1-y^2)^{-4m-2}(1+y)^{5-t}].$$

Since

$$(1-y^2)^{-a} = \sum_{0 \leq j} \binom{-a}{j} (-1)^j y^{2j} = \sum_{0 \leq j} \binom{a+j-1}{j} y^{2j} \quad \text{for } a > 0,$$

it follows in case  $t \leq 5$  that

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_{2m+1}(n) &= -\frac{12m+t}{2m+1} [\text{coeff. of } y^{2m} \text{ in } (1+y)^{5-t} \sum_{j=0}^m \binom{4m+j+1}{j} y^{2j}] \\ &= -\frac{12m+t}{2m+1} \sum_{s=0}^{\lfloor \frac{5-t}{2} \rfloor} \binom{5-t}{2s} \binom{5m+1-s}{m-s},\end{aligned}$$

and in case  $t > 5$  that

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_{2m+1}(n) &= -\frac{12m+t}{2m+1} [\text{coeff. of } y^{2m} \text{ in } (1-y)^{t-5} \sum_{j=0}^m \binom{4m+t+j-4}{j} y^{2j}] \\ &= -\frac{12m+t}{2m+1} \sum_{s=0}^{\lfloor \frac{t-5}{2} \rfloor} \binom{t-5}{2s} \binom{5m+t-4-s}{m-s}.\end{aligned}$$

For the different lengths  $n$  the values of  $\alpha_{2m+1}(n)$  are listed in Table 1.

To evaluate equation (2) we also need  $\beta_{ij}$  which are known due to [10]. Here we have

$$\beta_{ij} = (-1)^i 2^{-n/2+6i} \frac{k-j}{i} \binom{k+i-j-1}{k-i-j}, \quad (4)$$

Table 1: The values  $\alpha_{2m+1}(n)$  for extremal self-dual codes

$n$	$24m + 2$	$24m + 10$	$24m + 18$
$\alpha_{2m+1}$	$-\frac{(12m+1)(56m+4)}{(2m+1)(m-1)} \binom{5m-1}{m-2}$	$-\frac{12m+5}{2m+1} \binom{5m+1}{m}$	$-\frac{12(7m+5)(4m+3)}{m(m-1)} \binom{5m+3}{m-2}$
$n$	$24m + 4$	$24m + 12$	$24m + 20$
$\alpha_{2m+1}$	$-\frac{2(6m+1)(8m+1)}{m(2m+1)} \binom{5m}{m-1}$	$-6 \binom{5m+2}{m}$	$-\frac{20(6m+5)(4m+3)}{m(m-1)} \binom{5m+4}{m-2}$
$n$	$24m + 6$	$24m + 14$	$24m + 22$
$\alpha_{2m+1}$	$-\frac{3(4m+1)(6m+1)}{m(2m+1)} \binom{5m}{m-1}$	$-\frac{3(12m+7)}{m} \binom{5m+2}{m-1}$	$-\frac{6(12m+11)(6m+5)(8m+7)}{m(m-1)(m-2)} \binom{5m+4}{m-3}$
$n$	$24m + 8$	$24m + 16$	
$\alpha_{2m+1}$	$-\frac{4(3m+1)}{2m+1} \binom{5m+1}{m}$	$-\frac{16(3m+2)}{m} \binom{5m+3}{m-1}$	

where  $k = \lfloor n/8 \rfloor = 3m + l$ . In particular,

$$\beta_{2m+1,j} = -2^{6-t} \frac{3m+l-j}{2m+1} \binom{5m+l-j}{m+l-1-j} \quad \text{and} \quad \beta_{2m+1,m+l-1} = -2^{6-t}.$$

Now we are prepared to prove:

**Theorem 2** *Extremal self-dual codes of lengths  $n = 24m + 2$ ,  $24m + 4$ ,  $24m + 6$ ,  $24m + 10$  and  $24m + 22$  with minimal shadow do not exist.*

*Proof.* According to [10] any extremal self-dual code of length  $24m + 22$  has minimum distance  $4m + 6$  and the minimum weight of its shadow is  $4m + 7$ . Thus the shadow is not minimal since a minimal shadow must have minimum weight 3. (There is a misprint in [10] where it is stated that the minimum weight of the shadow is  $4m + 6$ . But actually the weights in this shadow are of type  $4j + 3$ ).

In the other four cases we have

$$c_{2m+1} = \alpha_{2m+1,0} = \beta_{2m+1,0} \tag{5}$$

by (2). In case  $n = 24m + 10$  we use the fact that  $b_m = 0$ , according to Remark 1.

Simplifying equation (5) according to Table 1 we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} 48m^2 + 26m + 1 &= 0, & \text{if } n = 24m + 2 \\ 24m^2 + 14m + 1 &= 0, & \text{if } n = 24m + 4 \\ 48m^2 + 30m + 3 &= 0, & \text{if } n = 24m + 6 \\ 6m + 3 &= 0, & \text{if } n = 24m + 10. \end{aligned}$$

Since all these equations have no solutions  $m \geq 0$  extremal self-dual codes with minimal shadow do not exist for  $n \equiv 2, 4, 6, 10 \pmod{24}$ .  $\square$

**Remark 2** So far no extremal self-dual codes of length  $24m + 2t$  are known for  $t = 1, 2, 3, 5$ . According to [8] extremal self-dual codes of length  $24m + 2r$  do not exist for  $r = 1, 2, 3$  and  $m = 1, 2, \dots, 6, 8, \dots, 12, 16, \dots, 22$ . Thus if there is (for instance) a self-dual  $[170, 85, 32]$  code it will not have minimal shadow, by Theorem 2.

The next result is a crucial observation in order to prove explicit bounds for the existence of extremal singly-even self-dual codes.

**Theorem 3** *Extremal singly-even self-dual codes with minimal shadow of lengths  $n = 24m + 8, 24m + 12, 24m + 14$  and  $24m + 18$  have uniquely determined weight enumerators.*

*Proof.* For  $m = 0$  and  $m = 1$  see Remark 3 and the examples at the end of the paper. Now let  $m \geq 2$ .

In case  $n = 24m + 12$  or  $n = 24m + 14$  we have

$$c_i = \alpha_{i0} = \beta_{i0} + \sum_{j=m}^{3m+1-i} \beta_{ij} b_j \quad \text{for } i \leq 2m + 1 \quad \text{and}$$

$$c_i = \alpha_{i0} + \sum_{j=2m+2}^i \alpha_{ij} a_j = \beta_{i0} \quad \text{for } i > 2m + 1.$$

Therefore  $c_i = \alpha_{i0}$  for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, 2m + 1$  and  $c_i = \beta_{i0}$  for  $i = 2m + 2, \dots, 3m + 1$ .

In the case  $n = 24m + 8$  we have  $b_0 = 0, b_1 = 1$  and  $b_2 = \dots = b_{m-1} = 0$ . Hence  $c_i = \alpha_{i0}$  for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, 2m + 1$  and  $c_i = \beta_{i1}$  for  $i = 2m + 2, \dots, 3m + 1$ .

Similarly, if  $n = 24m + 18$  we obtain  $c_i = \alpha_{i0}$  for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, 2m + 1$  and  $c_i = \beta_{i0}$  for  $i = 2m + 2, \dots, 3m + 2$ . In both cases the weight enumerator can be computed as above.

By (3) and (4), the values of  $c_i$  can be calculated and they depend only on the length  $n$ . Thus the weight enumerators are unique in all cases.  $\square$

In [15], Zhang obtained upper bounds for the lengths of the extremal binary doubly-even codes. He proved that extremal doubly-even codes of length  $n = 24m + 8l$  do not exist if  $m \geq 154$  (for  $l = 0$ ),  $m \geq 159$  (for  $l = 1$ ) and  $m \geq 164$  (for  $l = 2$ ). For extremal singly-even codes there is also a bound due to Rains [11]. Unfortunately, he only states the existence of a bound. In the next corollary we give explicit bounds for extremal singly-even self-dual codes with minimal shadow for lengths congruent 8, 12, 14 and 18 mod 24.

In the proof we need the value of  $c_{2m} = \alpha_{2m,0}$ . According to [10] we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\alpha_{2m}(n) &= -\frac{24m+2t}{4m} [\text{coeff. of } y^{2m-1} \text{ in } (1+y)^{-4m-t-1}(1-y)^{-4m}] \\
&= -\frac{12m+t}{2m} [\text{coeff. of } y^{2m-1} \text{ in } (1-y)^{t+1}(1-y^2)^{-4m-t-1}] \\
&= -\frac{12m+t}{2m} [\text{coeff. of } y^{2m-1} \text{ in } (1-y)^{t+1} \sum_{j=0}^m \binom{4m+t+j}{j} y^{2j}] \\
&= \frac{12m+t}{2m} \sum_{s=1}^{\lfloor \frac{t+2}{2} \rfloor} \binom{t+1}{2s-1} \binom{5m+t-s}{m-s}
\end{aligned}$$

where  $t = 4l + r$  and  $n = 24m + 8l + 2r = 24m + 2t$ . The values for  $\alpha_{2m}(n)$  are listed in Table 2.

Table 2: The values  $\alpha_{2m}(n)$  for an extremal self-dual  $[n = 24m + 2t, \frac{n}{2}, 4m + 4]$  code

$n$	$\alpha_{2m}(n)$
$24m + 8$	$\frac{8(4m+1)(11m+3)(3m+1)}{m(m-1)(m-2)} \binom{5m+1}{m-3}$
$24m + 12$	$\frac{24(116m^2 + 79m + 15)(1+2m)^2}{m(m-1)(m-2)(m-3)} \binom{5m+2}{m-4}$
$24m + 14$	$\frac{24(1+2m)(12m+7)(28m^2+22m+5)}{m(m-1)(m-2)(m-3)} \binom{5m+3}{m-4}$
$24m + 16$	$\frac{16(3m+2)(2m+1)(1216m^3 + 1956m^2 + 1073m + 210)}{m(m-1)(m-2)(m-3)(m-4)} \binom{5m+3}{m-5}$
$24m + 18$	$\frac{120(2m+1)(4m+3)(176m^3 + 308m^2 + 189m + 42)}{m(m-1)(m-2)(m-3)(m-4)} \binom{5m+4}{m-5}$
$24m + 20$	$\frac{16(6m+5)(2m+1)(4m+3)(1592m^3 + 3280m^2 + 2363m + 630)}{m(m-1)(m-2)(m-3)(m-4)(m-5)} \binom{5m+4}{m-6}$

Furthermore,  $\beta_{2m,j} = 2^{-t} \frac{3m+l-j}{2m} \binom{5m+l-1-j}{m+l-j}$ . Hence  $\beta_{2m,m+l} = 2^{-t}$  and  $\beta_{2m,m+l-1} = 2^{1-t}(2m+1)$ .

**Corollary 4** *There are no extremal singly-even self-dual codes of length  $n$  with minimal shadow if*

- (i)  $n = 24m + 8$  and  $m \geq 53$ ,
- (ii)  $n = 24m + 12$  and  $m \geq 142$ ,

(iii)  $n = 24m + 14$  and  $m \geq 146$ ,

(iv)  $n = 24m + 18$  and  $m \geq 157$ .

*Proof.* Using the equation

$$c_i = \alpha_{i0} = \beta_{i\epsilon} + \sum_{j=m}^{3m+l-i} \beta_{ij} b_j \quad \text{for } i \leq 2m+1,$$

where  $\epsilon = 1$  if  $n = 24m + 8$  and  $\epsilon = 0$  in the other cases, we see that

$$b_{m+l-1} = -2^{t-6}(\alpha_{2m+1,0} - \beta_{2m+1,\epsilon}).$$

The values of  $b_m$  for  $n = 24m + 8$ ,  $24m + 12$  and  $24m + 14$  are given in Table 3.

Table 3: The parameter  $b_m$  for extremal self-dual codes of length  $n$

$n$	$24m + 8$	$24m + 12$	$24m + 14$
$b_m$	$\frac{6m+1}{m} \binom{5m}{m-1}$	$\frac{12m+5}{2m+1} \binom{5m+1}{m}$	$\frac{168m^2 + 164m + 39}{(2m+1)(4m+3)} \binom{5m+1}{m}$

If  $n = 24m + 18$  we have

$$b_m = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad b_{m+1} = \frac{(24m+17)(17m+10)}{(2m+1)(4m+5)} \binom{5m+2}{m+1}.$$

In the first three cases we compute

$$b_{m+1} = \frac{\alpha_{2m,0} - \beta_{2m,\epsilon} - \beta_{2m,m} b_m}{\beta_{2m,m+1}}.$$

If  $n = 24m + 8$  we obtain

$$b_{m+1} = \frac{16(6m+1)(-4m^3 + 209m^2 + 141m + 24)}{5m(m+1)(4m+3)} \binom{5m+1}{m-1}$$

In case  $m \geq 53$  the polynomial  $-4m^3 + 209m^2 + 141m + 24$  takes negative values, hence  $b_{m+1} < 0$ , a contradiction.

For  $24m + 12$  we have

$$b_{m+1} = \frac{2(12m+5)(-32m^4 + 4496m^3 + 4242m^2 + 1257m + 117)}{(5m+1)(4m+3)(4m+5)(2m+3)} \binom{5m+2}{m+1}$$

If  $m \geq 142$  the polynomial  $-32m^4 + 4496m^3 + 4242m^2 + 1257m + 117$  takes negative values, hence  $b_{m+1} < 0$ , a contradiction.



For  $24m + 14$  the calculations lead to

$$b_{m+1} = \frac{2(-5376m^6 + 772352m^5 + 1663728m^4 + 1386448m^3 + 557970m^2 + 107643m + 7875)}{(4m+3)(4m+5)(2m+3)(4m+7)(5m+1)} \binom{5m+2}{m+1}$$

which is negative if  $m \geq 146$ .

In the last case we have to compute

$$b_{m+2} = \frac{\alpha_{2m,0} - \beta_{2m,0} - \beta_{2m,m+1}b_{m+1}}{\beta_{2m,m+2}}.$$

The computations yield

$$b_{m+2} = \frac{2(24m+17)(-544m^5 + 83696m^4 + 184210m^3 + 149089m^2 + 52809m + 6930)}{(4m+5)(2m+3)(4m+7)(4m+9)(5m+2)} \binom{5m+3}{m+2}$$

which is negative for  $m \geq 157$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 5** *If there are no extremal doubly-even self-dual codes of length  $n = 24m + 8$  or  $24m + 16$  then there are no extremal singly-even self-dual codes of length  $n$  with minimal shadow.*

*Proof.* We shall prove the contraposition. Let  $C$  be a singly-even self-dual  $[n = 24m + 8l, 12m + 4l, 4m + 4]$  code and suppose that the coset  $C_1$  contains the vector  $u$  of weight 4. If  $v \in C_3$  then  $u + v \in C_2$  and hence  $\text{wt}(u + v) \geq 4m + 6$ . It follows that

$$\text{wt}(v) \geq 4m + 6 - 4 + 2\text{wt}(u * v) \geq 4m + 4,$$

since  $C_1$  is not orthogonal to  $C_3$ , which means that  $u * v \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$  for  $u \in C_1, v \in C_3$  (see [4]). Thus  $\text{wt}(C_3) \geq 4m + 4$ . Therefore  $C_0 \cup C_3$  is an extremal doubly-even code with parameters  $[24m + 8l, 12m + 4l, 4m + 4]$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 6** *There are no extremal singly-even self-dual codes with minimal shadow of length  $n = 24m + 16$  for  $m \geq 164$ .*

*Proof.* This follows immediately from the Zhang bound [15] for doubly-even codes in connection with Proposition 5.  $\square$

Summarizing the results in Theorem 2, Corollary 4 and Corollary 6 we have proved either the non-existence or an explicit bound for the length  $n$  of an extremal singly-even self-dual code unless  $n \equiv 20 \pmod{24}$ . To find an explicit bound for  $n = 24m + 20$  seems to be difficult since the weight enumerator is not unique in this case.

**Remark 3** Extremal singly-even self-dual codes of length  $24m + 8$  are constructed only for  $m = 1$ , i.e.  $n = 32$ . There are exactly three inequivalent singly-even self-dual  $[32, 16, 8]$  codes. Yorgov proved that there are no extremal singly-even self-dual codes with minimal shadow of length  $24m + 8$  in the case  $m$  is even and  $\binom{5m}{m}$  is odd [14].

**Examples.** Extremal singly-even self-dual codes of lengths  $24m + 12$ ,  $24m + 14$  and  $24m + 18$ :

$m = 0$ : There are unique extremal singly-even codes of lengths 12, 14 and 16, and they have minimal shadows. There are two inequivalent self-dual  $[18, 9, 4]$  codes, but only one of them is a code with minimal shadow (see [5]).

$m = 1$ : Extremal self-dual codes of lengths 36, 38 and 42 with minimal shadow are constructed. Only for the length 36 there is a complete classification [9]. There are 16 inequivalent self-dual  $[36, 18, 8]$  codes with minimal shadow and their weight enumerator is  $W = 1 + 225y^8 + 2016y^{10} + 9555y^{12} + \dots$  (see [7]).

$m = 2$ : There exists a doubly circulant code with parameters  $[60, 30, 12]$  and shadow of minimum weight 2, denoted by  $D13$  in [5]. The first examples for extremal self-dual codes with minimal shadow of lengths 62 and 66 are constructed in [12] and [13], respectively.

Finally, we would like to mention that similar to the case of extremal doubly-even self-dual codes there is a large gap between the bounds for extremal singly-even self-dual codes and what we really can construct.

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